

DCPL #45 Cavagnaro

EDMUND CAVAGNARO

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DALY CITY, CALIFORNIA



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150
J. H. H. H.
believe it or not we still have people here in our vicinity
who can still picture and recall the road
which is now known as Westlake, now known, St. Francis Heights,
and extends away over into San Pedro Valley, just covered with
vegetation such as large cotton patches, oranges, of different
varieties, cauliflower, artichokes, turnips, carrots, and beans
just to name a few. All beautifully kept farms with rich well-
watered soils.

Quinn, California was the address to me at those ranches
these days, San Pedro, EDMUND CAVAGNARO, later and called, San Pedro
large store covering 428 Irvington St.
San Pedro, California
Daly City, California

San Pedro Road in those days just a wagon trail, wound up through
Quinn hills, around San Pedro mountains down to what is now known
as Pacific, a very narrow road it was but wagon drivers by nature
always managed to get you there.

and ranches. Published by DCPL, 1967
agreed through valley area.

921

C Heat. coll.

EDWARD CAVANARD
458 Irvington St.
Daly City, California

Investigation by J. H. H. H. H.

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Believe it or not we still have people here in our vastly expanded Daly City who can still picture and recall the roaming Colma hills now known as Westlake, Westmoor, St. Francis Heights, and Fairmont away over into San Pedro Valley, just covered with vegetables such as large sprout patches, cabbages, of different varieties, cauliflower, artichokes, turnips, carrots, and beets just to name a few. All beautifully kept farms with rich cultivated soil.

Colma, California was the address to any of these ranches these days, San Pedro road was the main inlet and outlet, Belli's large store covering most of 1st block on turn into San Pedro Road from Mission Road supplied most of household needs for miles around, (this block is now occupied by Gateway Chevrolet).

San Pedro Road in those days just a wagon trail, wound up through Colma hills, around San Pedro mountains down to what is now known as Pacific, a very narrow road it was but wagons drawn by horses always managed to get you there.

Hog ranches, dairies, chicken ranches and nurseries were spread through Valley area.

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A race track had operated in area known as Crocker Tract previous to 1900. My Father comeing (sic) here from Colma where he had been in vegetable business and liveing (sic) in a house on Sullivan St. just off Washington St., leased 63 acres of Crocker Tract extending from County Line at Templeton Avenue along Mission to what is now Crocker Avenue again extending up to foothills at Bellevue Avenue. There were still grandstands on property toward hill top on Crocker Avenue side were some large buildings a Mr. John Bauer and sons afterwards operated a Hog ranch there. Down on Templeton Avenue side was a chicken ranch, Mr. Spani's dairy, with Mr. Escolse and Mr. Emhoff's dairies adjoining on Acton and Hanover Streets, old Spani home still stands at this corner, the Meusdorffer's property extending from Whittier Street to Lowell up along Bellevue Avenue beautiful gardens were kept their (sic), seems they would come up with prize Dahlias each year at S.F. flower show. The San Francisco, San Mateo county line ran diagonally through this property (now a school site). Located at Brunswick and Acton Streets right across the street from Lincoln Park was in after years the location of famous Croffoth's Mission Street Arena (out-door) here many championship fights were held.

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to look at flames and smoke over their shoulders every now and then but not actually coming to a stop, just seemed they couldn't get far enough away. Within a few days of disaster (sic) Red Cross had arranged with Mr. W. Powell owner of Colma Lbr. Co located at No. 42 (Bismark Street) now Wilson Street for setting up Relief Station in Lumber Mill next door toward Mission Road.

Soon there were loads of supplies with provisions of all kinds including vegetables being distributed (2) twice daily, people from miles around were given rations; West End school at 5630 Mission St. (now Longfellow School) where we all went to school in those days was overrun with people who settled there (sic) after being burned out in San Francisco, everyone was housing refugees. My mother had a house full as I recall. Mr. W. Powell with (2) two sons and a son-in-law at the time of the earthquake operated Colma Lbr & Mill and furnished most of the lumber in this area for refugee's who settled here. Refugee shacks (sic) as they were called were being hauled to Daly City, Hilcrest, Mission Tract and Concordia Tract, rooms and additions had to be added, some of these still can be found in some sections of our city.

Vista Grande too received its share of these mostly (2) two room shacks (sic).

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Mission Ex't Homestead extended begining (sic) at Lelig Street west side along Mission Road to San Jose Avenue on other side, took in Goethe Street many of these homes had wells in their back yards those days all surface wells, but after Ocean Shore Railroad came out through Ocean View along Alemany just below it seems in tunneling under railroad tracks at San Jose Avenue caused many of the wells to dry up. (Bismark Street) now Wilson Street has several homes from that day still standing.

(Prim Street) now Flournoy Street was the site of John W. Marchbank property at the corner of Prim and Mission Road, thats the bldg now located on San Jose Avenue (Eagles Hall).

The old Canavan house once located on Prim Street when Race Track operated, with a spacious pool Hall adjoining is now located on San Jose Avenue, a two story bldg at one time used as Office for Daly City Record. In the triangle just below bank where Donohue's Garage now stands was old Abbey house occupied as a saloon by Poket family. All this section was know as Mission Ext. Homestead.

Hillcrest stood at top of hill, called Dalys Hill. Here at an elevation much higher in those days (was afterwards cut down reducing grades on San Jose Avenue also Mission Road) stood Mr. John Daly's ranch house up around Post Office Parking lot off Bepler Street. Along up what is now Bepler stood cow sheds and barns, people and young folks came up to dairy for milk and skim milk each evening from Ocean View and miles around. On the hill across from dairy site

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of present Masonic Temple was another Pioneer of that day he operated a saloon on the second floor was a large dance hall quite an attraction for years. Mr. Frank Knowles was owner. Where the Relish Bakery now stands was a nickleodeon. Mission Tract extended down Los Banos and Los Olivas it is my guess that most of refugee schaks (sic) settled in this area, at Knowles Avenue and Mission Road extended to Citrus to S.P. Railroad tracks was known as Vista Grande.

Ricco Biggo operated a road house at Knowles and Mission location now occupied by Sprout (sic) Ritz store.

Across Mission Road faceing (sic) on what is now Hillside Blvd. was a large Rock Quarry (sic), furnished most of rock used for roads in those days owned by Crocker Estate, operated by U.R.R. Mission Street widening which came much later made quite a change to Top of Hill, big quarry rock bunkers extended down to old H.H. Smith's Lbr Yd. on Hillside Blvd.

From Citrus down Mission to School to S.P. Railroad Tracks was in old days before incorporation a Greyhound Course live hares and Greyhounds performed to amusement of crowds in Granstand (sic) faceing (sic) Mission Road, this was known as Union Park.

It was here in 1905 on the corner of School and Mission Road that Battling Nelson, Jimmie Britt fight was held before a wild crowd Nelson won in 18 rounds. This large acreage was used as a vegetable garden for several years, until the district had grown so that it needed a High School, two factions got into a tussle as to

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where school should be located. One group wanted it on what is now Hillside Blvd. site where Edgewood Terrace is now located, another group wanted its present location this was in year 1926 - balance of Union Tract was sub-divided and home sites were soon being built throughout this area.

Along east side of Mission at Como Avenue was Mr. W. Bracklin's road house with Hall next door.

Where Mission Auto Court now stands was a large fuse factory, just below it was H. Lawrence Hog Ranch next Buchanan's Hog Ranch, several other Hog Ranches boarded (sic) Hillside Blvd. to Price St.

Bill Sweeney operated a blacksmith shop on site of his present location a few years later.

Street cars operated from Ferry Bldg out Guerrero and San Jose Avenue to Ocean View, Daly's Hill, Colma and cemeteries to Holy Cross a Shuttle car service operated between Holy Cross and South City a necessity even those days several large factories were already established as was the Steel Mill. Another line coming (sic) out Mission from Ferry Bldg to Onondago to San Jose Avenue out San Jose Avenue to hill to cemeteries, about 1908 when Crocker Estate started sub-dividing Crocker Amazon, and Crocker Tract, in what was afterwards to become Daly City, tracks were laid along rough old Mission Road to top of hill, soon after that lines were extended to San Mateo, this was known as #40 line.

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During years just previous to incorporation fires were continually breaking out in all parts of city, it got so bad at one time that a group of us youngsters around lumber yard in evening got to expect them and ran to fires often helping out bucket brigades that had been organized as time went on Fire Companys (sic) of Volunteer~~s~~ were formed and at its height Daly City had six (6) companys (sic) scattered in all sections of city.

Marchbank Park in those days was known as Vista Grande Park, huge Eucaliptus (sic) Cypress and Fir trees covered entire area solidly, it was here that fire companys (sic) held their annual picnic on the 4th of July, located in middle of park was built an open air dance floor with booths all around outside selling refreshments, friends from other fire companys (sic) and politicians from all over San Mateo County made this an outstanding event each year, still remembered by old timers of those days. Many of the residents of the various subdivided sections those days had fled here from South of Market, other relatives and friends moved here so as to join them as the

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years went on. In the year 1911 some one got the bright idea to incorporate area into a city, a red hot election was held and after a very close contest, those in favor of incorporation won out. One of our first mayors was Burton C. Ross, afterwards to become our City Clerk and served through all his years with honor until his retirement in 1956. He won confidence of citizens by his honesty and sincerity in handling his work and duties as a City Clerk. Whereas other public officials had to go out and campaign hard every four years to be retained in office, Burton in his nice quiet way simply left it to the people in late campaigns he never even put out cards.

With water plentiful (sic) and of high caliber the Crocker Tract with a 398 ft. well and wells in south end also a success, Daly City was in the water business, one of the secrets that kept tax rate so low over the years, at one time council was petitioned to cut water rates, this move was side stepped with the announcement that all water consumers would receive free garbage collection. Water pressure was so great that we can recall when city started clearing out trees in Marchbank Park, water pressure was used to washout stumps of trees, a process that proved quite successful.

In years just previous to incorporation and for some time after the site now occupied as Millets auto court on Mission Street in Colma attracted large crowds of fight fans and even us youngsters. I remember it as a Road House and saloon with the usual water trough out front for horses those days the only automobiles I recall were owned by Jack Johnson and Stanley Ketchell and one would have to

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see it to believe it the way they opened up along these rough choppy roads of that day. In back of saloon was a well equipped gymnasium where fighters worked out each afternoon in the mornings regularly did their road work this went on for at least one month before a fight. Some of the fighters I recall seeing there were Battling Nelson, Packy McFarland, Dick Hyland, Tommie Murphy, Stanley Ketchell, Abe Attell, Jimmy Clabby, Willie Ritchie, Jack Johnson, Sam Langford, Jimmy Welsh. A real thrill to watch these workouts, Jack Johnson for a heavyweight was really a master boxer, Ketchell a terrific puncher and fearless, Packy McFarland fast and terrific puncher, proved it in his only fight here, seems his trouble was making 133 lb. weight.

In the years just previous to incorporation same time as Millets training quarters flourished Jim Croffoth "Sunshine Jim" as he was afterwards called, because of the clear days he continually came up with his outdoor Mission Street Arena as it was named, most of his championship fights were usually staged on holidays during year.

Fight arena was located on the corner of what is now Acton and Brunswick St. as the story went those days San Francisco and San Mateo County line divided arena, the closest place of business was Henry Borner Bldg across the street from Acton and Mission, fights drew large crowds on recalls street cars lined for blocks up Mission Road at finish of fights.

Fights were policed by San Francisco and Daly City Police, a lot of citizens were sworn as deputies, us youngsters managed to see most of fights.

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One of first fights we recall and seen ended so fast that principles had to be called back after they had gone to dressing room to get pictures of knockout, was Tommy Burns, Bill Squires, heavyweights, ended in one punch. Croffoth Arena was actually located in San Mateo County and Daly City.

(w)	Tommy Burns	vs.	Bill Squires	1 round	year 1907
(w)	Jack Johnson	vs.	Ketchell		year 1909
(w)	Jack Johnson	vs.	Kaufman	10 rounds	
(w)	Ketchell	vs.	Thomas	32 rounds	
(w)	Ketchell	vs.	Mike Sullivan	1 round	
(w)	Ketchell	vs.	Jack Sullivan	20 rounds	
(w)	Ketchell	vs.	Papke	20 rounds	
(d)	Abe Attel	vs.	Moran	23 rounds	Draw
(w)	Battling Nelson	vs.	Gans		2 fights 1908
(w)	Leach Cross	vs.	Hyland	41 rounds	
(w)	Ritchie	vs.	Wolgest	16 rounds	year 1912

Another eventful day which will always be remembered by Daly City old timers is the celebration of Daly City day at the San Francisco worlds Fair on Treasure Island October 22, 1939. City Council, Daly City Band, Jefferson High students coral society, and citizens all enjoyed a gala day on Treasure Island touring buildings and reviewing exhibits shows and sights of the beautiful exposition.

A goodly part of crowd traveled across San Francisco Bay by Ferry Boat this enabling them to stay together, all were identified by a printed ribbon, reading Daly City Day, October 22, 1939. On arrival at Treasure Island, Daly City Band under leadership of George Breuner led the gathering through the grounds to receive official welcome.

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After the band played a few pieces to the crowd assembled, people scattered all over spacious Treasure Island, to meet again in the evening in a beautiful hall with stage for such occasions, Jefferson High students and band put on a highly entertaining show before large crowd that had assembled, needless to say Daly City folks had enjoyed a great day.

What really started Daly City on its way was decision by the City Council to do away with old equipment and firehouses and replace them with new fire trucks new fire houses, new locations for (2) two fire houses had to be purchased, bring signal system up to date. All this proposed plan was thoroughly discussed with the fire commission by City Council. After receiving assurance from heads of fire underwriters Mr. Bush and Mr. Adams that the proposed plan would be a splendid idea and when asked if they would be interested in drawing up plans and specifications for our new fire trucks they were told the purpose of it all was to eventually lead to a paid fire dept. The answer to drawing up specification was yes, its the right step to take.

On April 28, 1941 Resolution #751 was passed and adopted modernizing Volunteer System in its entirety followed Resolution #762 calling for a \$40,000 Bond Election with the Bond Election receiving the approval of citizens, purchase of (1) one site, other site was already city property two new fire houses, new fire signal

After the band played a few pieces to the crowd assembled, people scattered all over spacious Treasure Island, to meet again in the evening in a beautiful hall with stage for such occasions, Jefferson High students and band put on a highly entertaining show before large crowd that had assembled, needless to say. City folks had enjoyed a great day.

What really started City on its way was decision by the City Council to do away with old equipment and firehouses and replace them with new fire trucks, new fire houses, new fire stations for (2) two fire houses had to be purchased, bring signal system up to date. All this proposed plan was thoroughly discussed with the fire commission by City Council. After receiving assurance from heads of fire underwriters Mr. Bush and Mr. Adams that the proposed plan would be a splendid idea and when asked if they would be interested in drawing up plans and specifications for our new fire trucks they were told the purpose of it all was to eventually lead to a paid fire dept. The answer to drawing up specification was yes, it the right step to take.

On April 28, 1941 Resolution 8751 was passed and adopted modernizing Volunteer System in its entirety followed Resolution 8762 calling for a \$40,000 Bond Election with the Bond Election receiving the approval of citizens, purchase of (1) one site, other site was already city property two new fire houses, new fire signal

boxes, equipment, and (4) four new fire trucks Daly City Fire Insurance Rates were on same level with San Francisco. When on December 7, 1941 the day Pearl Harbor was bombed, one of the trucks had been already delivered, three were in final days of completion up at Van Pelt Plant in Oakdale, California. Oweing (sic) to immediate excitement and orders of priorities council felt trucks might be tied up, but after a short delay delivery came through o.k. Last heard these trucks are still giving (sic) satisfactory service to our city.

We had a wonderful water supply, with report each month that our water was only excelled in grade by one county, in state up Shasta County way, thus we found ourselves real fortunate and in first class shape at outbreak of World War 2.

We had on June 8, 1941 taken a great step forward celebrating 30th anniversary of incorporation and city council arranged for a huge parade composed of Fraternal, school, civic clubs, recreation organizations, shereiff's (sic) pose (sic) from Peninsula and Bay area, together with local groups of citizens, after dedication of Lincoln Park at Acton and Brunswick, marched up Mission Street to Park Avenue, down Park to Marchbank Park for dedication of this beautiful bowl. Speakers rejoiced in the wonderful step being taken to provide recreation for its children. On completion of ceremonies crowd which surrounded banks of park on both sides including shereiff's

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(sic) pose (sic) were treated to a baseball game that had been arranged. A team composed of former Jefferson High players managed by their former coach Mr. Biggs taking (sic) on one of San Francisco's outstanding AA semi-pro teams at that time Owl Drugs managed by Otto Olson.

A real ball game it developed into with both teams alternating (sic) in taking (sic) lead, with Owl Drugs coming (sic) out on top in a very close game.

Marchbank Bowl bookings became a real problem (sic) teams from East Bay and as far away as Sacramento asking to be booked for games.

Teams from San Francisco and Peninsula formed a winter league in 1941-1942-1943 and some real games were played each Sunday to real enthusiastic crowds. We will always cherish and remember the words of former big leaguer Bill Lang once outfielder under McGraw, when introduced to him he stated: "I have played on baseball fields up and down this country of ours, but this beats them all." (real nice coming (sic) from a man of his experience.) He is the man that promoted Milbrae (sic) Highlands, George Kelly is a nephew and many others went down there (sic) to live.

Many American and National League players performed each Sunday at local park during Winter League. Bill Rigney, Jack Caufield, Eddie Joost, Gus Trinados, Gentile and our own Don Mossi (to name a few).

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Until this historic day, June 8, 1941 when Daly City dedicated their first two parks, this as it turned out was exactly (6) six months previous to terrible bombing at Pearl Harbor, recreational needs were worked out with full cooperation of Jefferson High School. Mr. J. Ferguson then principal at High School proposed to school Trustee's the idea of a gymnasium and swimming pool it met with their approval and a bond election followed in 1937 immediately all the recreation minded citizens got behind move and it carried. Mr. Ferguson's slogan was (quote) that every student at Jeff. would learn to swim.

Even San Francisco our neighboring city rented pool for use of high school students, they have since built many pools scattered throughout city.

Again to us oldster's (and again may I say) there are still some around, brings back memories of old swimming hole, well provided with fresh spring water along railroad tracks, located at foot of Marchbank where Mortuary now stands on Westlake.

Baseball parks brings back memories of our sandlot days, parks in Crocker Track and Vista Grande a great rivalry teams from both sides of hill, they finally joined up and formed a very strong team to represent Daly City, in early years of incorporation drew large crowds to Balboa Park each Sunday, (That was home diamond) afterwards played teams all around Northern California.

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Ocean Shore Railroad entered Daly City around San Francisco, San Mateo County line crossed Southern Pacific railroad tracks and Junipera Serra there into what was then Spring Valley Water Works land along parralell (sic) to Golf Links on San Francisco side and what is now Garden Village on the other, (at that time Garden Village was a vegetable garden) heading on through vegetable gardens for the Ocean to reach it at Thorton (sic) Beach, with road running along coast side away down to Tonita's. It transported freight from dairies and farms all along the coast. At Thorton (sic) Beach they had a switch track, where cars were loaded with chalk mined from a chalk quarry located not so far away on site of present Olympic Golf Course, between Daly City and Thorton (sic) beach railroad bed had three (3) long wooden tressels that crossed canyons comeing (sic) down from Colma hills through vegetables (sic) gardens, hunting was very good down these canyons that ran down to Lake Merced area, all kinds of game could be seen through this property owned at that time by Spring Valley Water Department, afterwards purchased by City of San Francisco.

The entire Lake Merced Area was well patrolled (sic) by watchman (sic) on horseback who kept hunters from trespassing.

However, there was good hunting along coast side as well as plenty of fishing all down through Pedro Point, Mussel Rock, Salada Beach, Moss Beach down through Martins Beach Pigeon Point and New Years Island,

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loaded with fish, mussels, and abalone those days, attracted large crowds of sportsmen when seasons were open.

The children of those days thought nothing of promoting a hike to Thorton (sic) Beach, a distance that was supposed to be about (4) four miles.

There was a club known as Green Leaf Club headquarters were at William Brackens Hall on Mission Road, (located right at what is now Como and Mission Sts.).

This club went on several excursions by Ocean Railroad to Princeton by the Sea, Green Canyon and other spots and enjoyed some real picnics on these trips, some of us are still around to remember these pleasant outings.

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Original City Hall was built by a Mr. J. Doering a building contractor he lived at Wellington Avenue in fact he built three houses there at that time, still stand on spot and apparently in good shape. This original city hall was replaced in 1939 with present City Hall. All the people have heard ever since is that it was too small but even though our City has spread and grown by leaps and bounds it has done a pretty good job of serving our city.

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A SERVICEMEN'S CLUB IN DALY CITY

By

EDMUND CAVAGNARO

During World War II, 1941 to 1945, our city like most cities was overrun with servicemen, many from nearby army camps located in Crocker Hills adjacent to the city reservoirs and wireless station there at that time.

A group of public and community spirited women feeling something could be done to make things more homelike for these boys, with the aid of City Council composed of Anthony Gaggero, John Fahey, Edmund Cavagnaro, Eugene Lynch and Hugh Smith, Sr. agreed to set up a service club for all servicemen by providing rental service and utilities in building located at 6201 Mission Street at Crocker Avenue. Supervision for Servicemen's Club was taken care of by Mrs. Ann Eason, Mrs. Marie Boyle and Mrs. Steele. Together they planned schedule of events for each week, with the aid of Women from organizations from all sections of the city; Womens Civic Club, Mothers Club, Our Lady of Perpetual

A SERVICEMEN'S CLUB IN DAILY CITY

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Help Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Auxiliary American Legion, Native Daughters, Druids, Parent Teachers Associations and others.

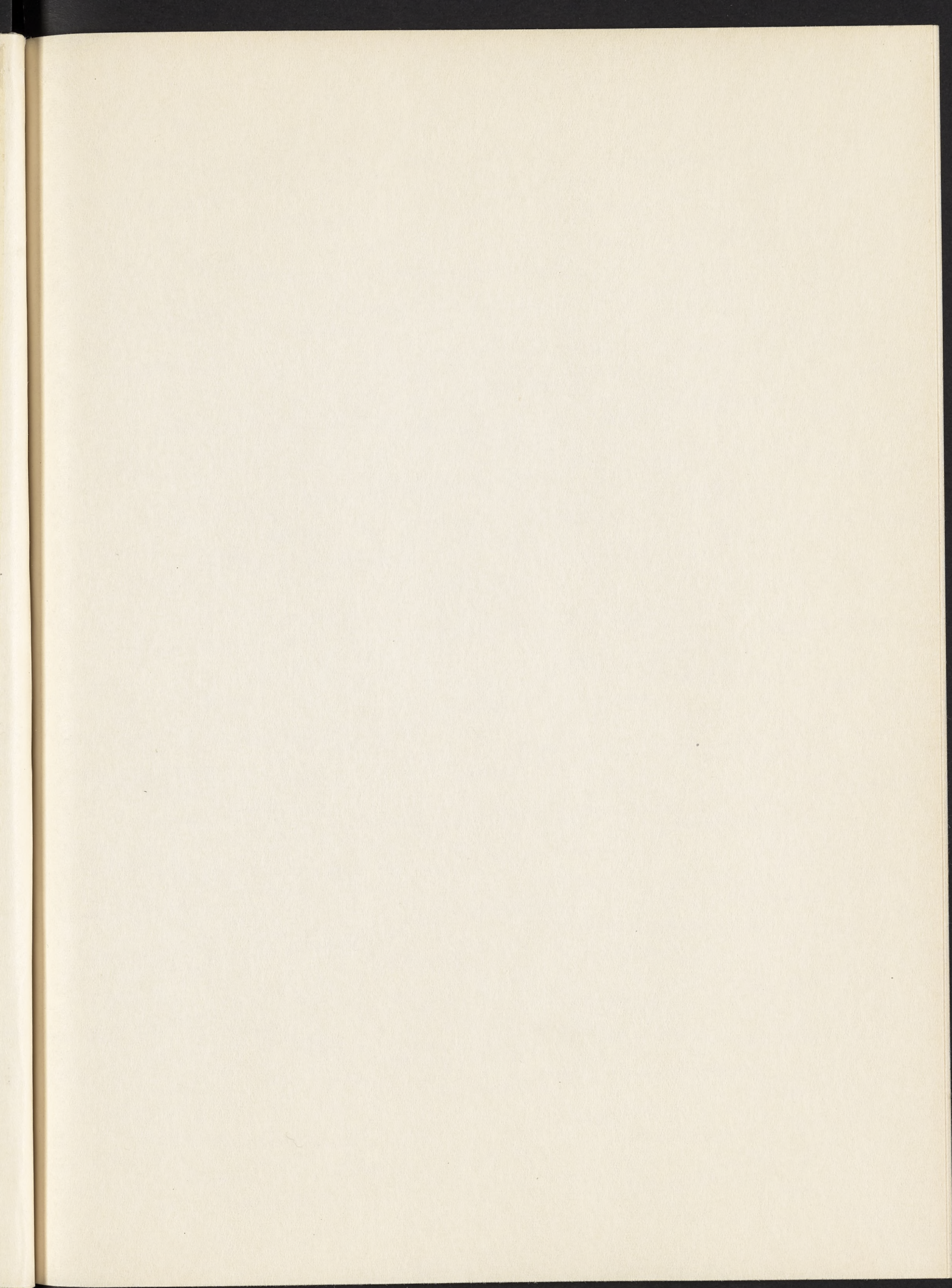
Many of these mothers who had sons of their own doing service in all parts of our country and some overseas, made these boys feel right at home, by promoting games, dances and parties with coffee and cake being served during evening hours. Many service men enjoyed phone calls to their homes, provided by the Club. Many were invited to homes for holiday dinners. As a result many lasting friendships developed. Some even led to romance with some of our local girls.

This very popular spot was a transfer point to Army Camp for boys who had spent evenings in nearby San Francisco. It also became a favorite with men working in the interests of our city as Air Raid Wardens and auxiliary police or on other duties in Civilian defense.

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